UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

Jubilee Re-Union of the Class of 1867

1863-1913

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West Point, New York,
June 12, 1913.

Owing to the care, as untiring as it was loving, of our Class President, General Godfrey, the Class of 1867, with its satellites, both *plus* and *minus*, made a showing that compared very favorably with other classes of younger but busier men. The secretary takes this occasion to apologize for his somewhat abrupt call to the meeting last year, Godfrey followed a different course. Like the Rocky Mountain Maid, he lured his prey from the smoky recesses of their dens or the retirement of their own backyards, and coaxed them into once more breaking the bread of good fellowship and taking part in the Sun-dance of fraternal love.

Passing along the axis of −Y−, that is of years, although the increment is 1/50 of the total ordinate, yet the increment in the area of the more or less hyperbolic curve which expresses the aggregate of our own ideas of our vicissitudes is relatively small, and so shall be this record. Tangency is near.

We had with us—

Godfrey,	Pitman,	Borden,	Miller,
Crawford,	"Sep" Jones	Conline,	Howes,
Farragut,	Roe,	Metcalfe,	Haupt*

*At Meeting of June 11th only.

eleven in all. The dinner was served in the north room of the second story officer's mess, at a round table, in the center of which was a large basket of roses, and at each place was a special favor painted for the occasion by Roe. These favors, about five by ten, were done in water colors, representing on one side some prominent feature connected with West Point, and on the other a most amazing diversity of inventions in the way of panoplies and crests of the Military Academy, tributes to the versatility and patriotism of our gifted author and artist. These were protected on each

side by sheets of celluloid, and are welcome heirlooms of the occasion. We had an excellent dinner, sparely moistened with wine, at the end of which was drunk the toast "The President of the United States," and then one, standing and in silence, to those who had fallen by the way since we met, namely,

Hinman	Mallery
Rogers	Gifford

Letters were read as follows:—

1. GIFFORD:—This letter, dated May 2nd, was almost the last he wrote. It is mournful in tone. Totally deaf, suffering from Bright's disease, he still hoped to sail with his son-in-law to France on June 3rd. He would have been seventy on the 15th of June. Many tributes were paid to his memory, special stress being laid upon his gentleness and his self-control, which, however lacking in some directions, in others never caused him to hurry, flurry or worry. Crawford spoke particularly of his self-possession when they were shipmates in a wreck on the unknown and rock-bound coast of Alaska in 1868. He toddled along the sloping deck, swept and shaken by the roaring sea, as if he was toddling up to take a drink, unmoved and undeterred.

2. GOODLOE: sent this telegram: "May the blessings of life be vouchsafed to the gallant sixty-sevens as freely as they gave their lives and talents to a nation they have honoured." Roe paid a special tribute to the geniality and essential gallantry of Goodloe.

3. A telegram of regret and kind remembrances was received from ECKHART, expressing his hopes that he might attend some future meeting of the class. Remarks by Miller revealed that Eckhart had been led to resign so as to manage a large stock farm in which a wealthy relative had invested a large sum of money. Having once "cut the painter", however, the farm failed and he was stranded. But, with the cheerful grit which we all remember, he got

a minor clerkship from Ledyard to support him while he studied law. He eventually returned to Tuscola, the scene of his former failure, and has practiced law with more than a fair measure of success. He is one of Speaker Cannon's trusted lieutenants and practices engineering in maintaining the ex-speaker's political fences.

4. SHALER, wrote an affectionate note of regret. He was going off with his family on an automobile tour a little later than the time set for the dinner, and could not come.

5. LOMIA begged off on account of his physical infirmities. We all wished we might have had his tone instead of his note. He spoke of his old songs "Mia Vecchietta" and "La Ragazzetta".

6. HOWE: had also to "prove a yoke of oxen" (of which he was one) and went riding off in revolutionary glory on his Connecticut carabao, shaking a "day-day" to his admiring friends.

7. HAUPT had been at the meeting of the Alumni Association, but was obliged to return to Philadelphia in order to testify in court. He left the following sentiment in a note: "As the rearguard of a retreating army, it is ours to cherish the memories of our beloved colleagues, and still to "Act in the living present, Heart within and God o'erhead." He suggested the propriety of having a memorial volume prepared from the records of our deceased classmates, with their photographs, and thought that our long Roe might hoe it.

8. MAHAN wrote from Paris of his tremendous efforts in establishing a pipe line through which to pump the secret service information from the archives of Europe to the ash bins of the Engineering Department in Washington. In the brief intervals of work, while eating a sandwich, he plays the flute and writes a criticism on the tubas used in the Montenegrin army.

9. A very charming letter written by Admiral McNair from Saratoga, telling about our dear friend BOCKES. They were evidently very warm and sympathetic friends. He speaks of the pranks that Bockes got into in the cockloft of the old Seventh Division, of "Crazy" Hodges and Cliffe and Gifford; of his great veneration for Colonel Black, and of his perplexities in the section room. He speaks of his predisposition to tuberculosis, outgrown about his thirtieth year, of his being a banker and of the philosophy with which he accepted the misfortunes that seem to follow that profession. His cheerful life seemed to have earned a calm ending. He was found seated on the edge of the bed, one foot on his knee and his shoe string untied.

10. CAMPBELL: He seems to be slipping into a peaceful and properous old age, with but one regret, that he was unable to get a commission in the Spanish War. His efforts seem to have been defeated by the maneuvers of a well-known officer, whom I may be pardoned for not naming. General Miles and Mr. McKinley assisted, but without result. The wind of Destiny was too strong and overpowered his own persistent efforts.

11. RUFFNER wrote a sad letter, with much warmth toward individuals, but with what seems a distorted view of the feeling that has brought us back.

12. BASSEL had written a letter that Godfrey had lost. He is living quietly as a surveyor, with not very much to do, but not many claims to meet.

13. The longest letter came from MERRIMAN. He evidently would have enjoyed very much the actual meeting with the survivors. Merriman is now seventy, but generally taken as about sixty years of age. He came to Arkansas in '71 as a civil engineer on the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railway, and then was instrumental in forming the

county of Faulkner, called after the original "Arkansas Traveler." He took part in a threatening gubernatorial contest in 1874. He organized a partizan company, whose services, owing to the intervention of President Grant, were not required. Then he practiced law, and having been called Captain, is now called Judge, but not, so far as we are concerned, a "Traveller." Was a member of the State Legislature in which he fostered the building of a new state capitol, costing two million dollars and causing a great deal of trouble to a good many people. He smokes, but has not touched liquor for thirty years.

The letters having been read, Godfrey called on us all for remarks. In reply to which kaleidoscopic ROE read reminiscences of Ludlow Barber, with whom he had a fight, and Fred. Grant.

MILLER, after having swung millions of dollars and handled armies and fleets as if they were toys during the exciting times in Manila, has settled down on an acre of ground in Burlington, where he spends his time in carpentering and gardening and automobiling, being his own best man in all three pursuits. Serene and mild in speech and look as ever, he seemed a very Cincinnatus of the times. He and Metcalfe sat side by side during all the graduating exercises, and, though sharing the same program, failed to recognize each other until an unlabeled affection led them to each other's arms.

CRAWFORD spoke of the *dangers of coming to a reunion. (*So say the secretary's notes. The precise dangers are not remembered, but are supposed to refer to the snares that surround Beauty during a hike of fifty years, Alaskan wrecks, Jumping, and other Johns, and the Armageddon of Fort Caswell.)

CONLINE told of his experience as a private soldier in the Army of the Potomac, and of his surprise when on duty in the draft riots in Washington Square, New York City, he was called out aud sent up to West Point on fatigue.

JONES enlisted the sympathy and admiration of all, first by his account of the burning of his home at Saugerties, and then by the indomitable good nature with which he accepted his misfortune.

No flames of fire can scar his dauntless soul.

"Rubs of the green" but *move* the golfer's goal.

He urges all his classmates to come in and says (whiskey and) "water is fine."

FARRAGUT referred to the pervading influence of his experience at West Point, and the way in which it has left its mark upon his dress, his duty and his dreams. Welsh rarebit always lands him at reveille minus his trousers.

PITMAN spoke of the comparative solitude of the ordnance officer, and of the confidence he had always felt in time, as the great common denominator. Pitman has prepared a tabular statement, a sort of scroll of fame for every one who entered with the class. It is altogether too voluminous to be published and too precious to be lost. It should really be turned over to the secretary of the Association of Graduates.

BORDEN spoke as a general officer and representative of the graduates of January 1st, 1864. He pledged his loyalty and that of his fellows in all their walks and talks, to the class of 1863 and to the principles for which it stands.

The SECRETARY acknowledged a chronic grossness as a cadet that yielded a crop of extras which made him go into the Ordnance Department in hopes of patenting a tin gun barrel. He felt as keenly as any leaner soul the

charm and the spirit that brought us together once more and proposed as a final toast the following sentiment :

West Point and heaven. Neither are geographical expressions, but both are states of mind.

Poor HOWES was suffering terribly from a toothache, and soon after sitting down was compelled to leave the table.

In conclusion, as the result of a vote, it was agreed to hold the next reunion on the night corresponding to the 11th of June, that is, on the night of the graduating parade, and to engage a room early so as to retain all our rights of seniority.

HENRY METCALFE.

P. S.—W. H. Stockbridge, Photographer, at West Point has for sale at 75 cents each, a very good group 8½x6½ of Roe, Conline, Godfrey, Pitman, Farragut, Metcalfe, Howes, Jones and Haupt, all who were present at the Alumni Meeting June 11th.